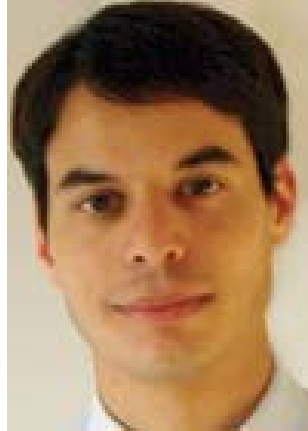


## **DEREK NARENDRA**

NIH-Cambridge Scholar 2008

Degrees: Columbia University, B.A., Psychology and Philosophy, 2002

Research Interests: Biochemistry and Genetics of Neurodegenerative Disorders



Derek graduated magna cum laude from Columbia University in 2002 with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Philosophy. At Columbia he worked in the laboratory of Dr. Jon Horvitz, investigating the role of dopamine in learning. After graduation, he spent the summer at St. Vincent's Hospital on a fellowship in research ethics, in which he studied and co-authored a paper on patient decision-making preferences at the end of life. Derek then matriculated into the University of Michigan Medical School, where in addition to his studies he served as the co-coordinator for the Delonis Clinic and co-founded the International Health Outreach program to raise awareness of global health issues amongst local high school students. The summer following his first year of medical school, Derek was awarded an NIH training grant to study the regulation of pain tolerance by the opioid system in the laboratory of Dr. Jon Kar Zubieta at the University of Michigan. He won a Howard Hughes Medical Institute- NIH Research Fellowship after his third year in medical school, and through the fellowship he joined the laboratory of Dr. Richard Youle at the National Institute for Neurological Diseases and Stroke (NINDS), where he studied proteins linked to familial Parkinson's disease. In the NIH-Cambridge program, Derek will continue to investigate the cellular biology and biochemistry of these proteins in the laboratories of Dr. Youle at the NINDS and Professor Sir John Walker at the MRC Dunn Unit for Human Nutrition at Cambridge University. In his free time, he is an avid runner and skier, and he plans to participate in the Marine Corps Marathon this coming year. Derek hopes that his research will further elucidate pathways that are perturbed in idiopathic Parkinson's disease and present novel targeted for therapeutics.